

Saltwater-sportfishing stamps
(SB 1000, by Brown)

DIGEST:

The bill would have required people to buy a \$5 saltwater-sportfishing stamp from the Parks and Wildlife Department in order to fish in saltwater. Saltwater sportfishing without a stamp would have been a class-C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$200.

GOVERNOR'S
REASONS
FOR VETO:

SB 216, effective on Sept. 1, 1983, will raise the cost of a Texas fishing license. To increase the fees even more for saltwater sportfishing would be unwarranted.

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Sen. Brown said the Governor misunderstood why a stamp would be required only of those fishing in saltwater. The stamp was designed as a "user fee" in order to supplement the cost of hiring more game wardens to police the coast. The coast is much more difficult to police than freshwater areas and it would not be fair to charge a fee to those who do not fish there. The Parks and Wildlife Department estimated that the stamp would generate \$5 million--an amount that the Department could never expect to get in appropriations. Brown emphasized that no one testified against the bill in committee. It was the type of bill the Governor would not have vetoed "unless someone told him to."

NOTES:

The analysis of SB 1000 appeared in the May 24 Daily Floor Report.

Powers of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
(SB 1036, by Sharp)

DIGEST:

The bill would have authorized the directors of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority to adopt rules regulating the use of vehicles and firearms on any water or on any beds or banks of any river, lake, stream, creek, or other body of water within the district. Violation of the rules would have been a class-A misdemeanor. The authority could have prevented free public use of its surplus lands for recreation, hunting, and fishing "where, in the opinion of the Directors, such as would interfere with the proper conduct of the business."

GOVERNOR'S
REASONS
FOR VETO:

"The highly extraordinary regulatory powers granted to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority in this bill are not necessary to the accomplishment of the purposes for which the authority was created."

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Sen. Sharp said he and Rep. Armbrister, the House sponsor, asked the Governor to veto this bill. The bill dealt with a local problem in Victoria County. Sharp said "a bunch of people on motorcycles and in four-wheel drive pickups" had disturbed residents of creekside areas with firearms violations, vandalism, dangerous driving, and other behavior. It had seemed desirable to give the river authority more power to deal with the problem. But after considerable bad publicity and an outcry from landowners and sun-bathers in the area, local law enforcement took care of the problem. There hasn't been any trouble for months, so the bill isn't really necessary, Sen. Sharp said.

Bypassing Purchasing Commission for certain purchases
(SB 1221, by Blake)

DIGEST:

SB 1221 would have allowed state agencies to make certain purchases without going through the State Purchasing and General Services Commission. Invoices and purchase vouchers would have been sent directly to the Comptroller.

GOVERNOR'S
REASONS
FOR VETO:

"The safeguards provided by the current system of checks and balances far outweigh the short acceleration in payments provided by this bill."

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Sen. Blake said the Governor's veto was evidently based on the State Auditor's objections to this Comptroller-backed bill. Blake's only complaint was that the objections were not raised during any committee meeting; he noted that the bill passed both the Senate and House on the uncontested calendar.